2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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independent. They remained independent until the Yemeni Imam was sufficiently strong internally to try again to expand the limits of his kingdom, but it was not until the middle of the fourteenth century that the Imam of the time was able to re-establish his control over Lahej.

A hundred years later the pendulum swung back again for a brief period, and we find the Imam of that time trying to crush an internal rebellion which seems to have had its origin in Lahej and was led by one Malik Ali and his brother. The Imam was unsuccessful and Malik Ali eventually established himself on the Imamic throne and the Yemen's control of the border tribes, including Lahej, was again established and continued until the middle of the sixteenth century when the Yemen was overrun by the Turks and it became a Province of the Ottoman Empire and remained as such for nearly one hundred years until the middle of the seventeenth century when, on the Turks evacuating the country, the Imam was able to re-establish his authority, not only in his own country but to some degree over the areas of the Protectorate adjacent to the Yemen. The magic hundred played its part again, and by the thirties of the eighteenth century disturbances in the Yemen itself weakened the authority of the Imam and gave an opportunity to the Sultans of Lahej, and indeed the other Protectorate tribes, to break away and once more become independent. A hundred years later and we came on the scene and there began to come into existence that series of Treaties which has established the Aden Protectorate as we know it at the present day.

This very brief historical sketch would not be complete without mentioning the second coming of the Turks, which occurred in the last century. They overran the Yemen, they divested the Imam of his temporal authority and once again they turned the country into a Turkish province. Not content with their gains in the Yemen they poured over into the Protectorate and in May 1872 were on the borders of Lahej but a short distance from the town of Aden itself. There they remained for some time and then withdrew back into the Yemen, but it is not clear what caused them to do so because

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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701 independent commanders in out-of-the-way places. In a serious crisis the Commandant of the Legion and the Military Assistant would be flown up to the nearest Post and the Commandant would take over the general control of the situation, sure in the knowledge that he could call on the Military Assistant, an experienced soldier, for advice at any time. Behind them both there was Hugh Boustead, capable of dealing with almost any situation single-handed, and behind him was Aden and the Royal Air Force ready and willing to help at any time. Everything was in good shape and I never had any qualms about our ability to deal with interlopers on the Saudi frontier.

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[315] In 1955 Her Majesty's Government formally declared the co-ordinates of the line south of which they would not tolerate the unrestricted movement of foreign subjects, and it was not long after this announcement was made to the Saudi Government that an American oil-survey party operating in two sections with an armed Saudi escort, trespassed in two separate places. They were located from the air and in no time the Military Assistant with an adequate escort from the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion, had moved by air and Land-Rover to intercept them. The error of their ways was pointed out to them and they withdrew promptly with their escort, leaving their expensive equipment behind in spite of being told they could take it with them. The escort had second thoughts and returned and were promptly taken into custody and disarmed without a shot being fired and later sent to Jedda by a civil Air Line. As far as I know the equipment is still in the desert; it certainly was in 1956 when I drove that way, and it was already showing very clearly the effects of sun, sand and the bedouin.

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[181] It was in the same year, 1955, that the Buraimi business in Trucial Oman where the Sheikhdom of Abu Dhabi meets the Sultanate of Muscat and Oman, upset King Saud. Stolen fruit is always so much sweeter than that which is got by legitimate means and in this case both *hasad* and *sharf* were involved—"jealousy" and "honour", those two curses of Arabia which have kept the peoples and the countries divided for generations and generations. The King showed his irritation with Great Britain by sending arms to the bedouin in the northern areas

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of the Protectorate, and his officials encouraged them to revolt against their Arab Rulers, to whose assistance we would be bound, in such circumstances, to send our Forces. The first consignment of rifles arrived by lorry and they were distributed to all and sundry, just within Saudi limits where the Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Aden frontiers all meet, and some of them fell into the hands of Yemenis with no love for their Ruler. This did not suit the Imam at all and he protested to the Saudis, not against the distribution of arms, but against it being done so close to his border and in such a haphazard manner. The Saudi officials changed their methods and the next lorry load of rifles was sent right in to Quaiti State territory where it was captured promptly by the Hadhrami Bedouin Legion with the help of the Royal Air Force. The Saudi authorities were discouraged by the impenetrable screen of patrols by air and by land which was introduced forthwith and no more attempts were made to send arms to the tribesmen. Instead, the tribesmen were encouraged to go to Saudi Arabia and collect the arms personally, at the same time taking an oath to use them against their "oppressors". They went in some numbers, caring little about the distance and less about the oath, which seemed to these simple-minded people a small price to pay for a valuable weapon. Most of them did not class either their Rulers or ourselves as "oppressors". They were much more likely to regard in that light a neighbour who had been disagreeable recently about irrigation water, or with whom they had a long standing private vendetta.

The tribesmen moved more quickly than the Saudis had anticipated and a camp had to be pitched for them in which to await the arrival of the promised arms. This did not please the tribesmen, who were anxious to get home before their absence had attracted attention and they grew impatient and quarrelled with the Saudis and with each other. The rifles still did not appear and the tribesmen became more and more troublesome until eventually, heartily sick of the whole business, the Saudi officials dismissed the tribesmen with a few riyals and no rifles, and closed the camp. The tribesmen, furious at being cheated, as they considered it, returned home with very definite views

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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about the Saudi authorities and the whole affair did us more good than harm, demonstrating as it did the efficiency of our local forces and Royal Air Force ground-air co-operation and the value of a Saudi promise. Various diplomatic kettles in other parts of the world went off the boil, and I had no further trouble on the Saudi frontier.

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178 the weakness of their position so long as they remain isolated the one from the other by jealousy and personal pride with the result that the States of Beihan, the Audhali, Dhala, the Fadli and the central State of Dathina have all intimated their desire to federate together, and discussions are in progress with the Colonial Office and the Governor on the practical implementation of their decision. The Aulaki Sheikh, also, from whose territory so many of the Levies and Guards are recruited, has signified his readiness to join a federation, and I am sure that other States will follow the lead which has been given them and hope that before this year is ended the Protectorate will have taken a major step forward.

642 Internally the Protectorate has not been free from disturb-
643 ance. In Lower Yafa Sultan Muhammed allowed himself to be swayed by Egyptian propaganda and deserted his charge, the lowland reaches of his State embracing the northern half of the rich cotton yielding Abiyan plain. He fled to the Yafa highlands and on into Yemen, taking with him the Lower Yafa Tribal Guards, which were of no moment, and the contents of his father's, the Sultan's Treasury amounting to £10,000 which did matter. The Assistant Adviser on the spot, who was himself an Arab, acted promptly and vigorously and the void left by the Tribal Guards was filled rapidly by Government Guards from Aden. There were no disturbances of any moment and the situation was never out of control. Sultan Mohd's defection was deplorable but understandable for he was ever a wayward and foolish fellow and his country is no worse for his absence.

687 Over to the West in the Sultanate of Lahej a very unhappy
• 669 position has arisen. It is nothing to do with the State's frontier with the Yemen which was at one time a continuous worry but recently has been unusually peaceful. The Sultan who was the first to approve federation in principle and the most difficult to deal with in the discussions which followed the 1954 meeting at Government House, in April of this year, left his State, presumably in protest at the arrest by the Governor's order of his Minister for Education, Abdullah bin Ali, one of the Jifri Saiyid. The order for arrest, which was on a charge of

2: Hickinbotham G-4, 5 (ca. 1931-ca. 1957)
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seditious activity, included also the names of his brothers, Muhammed bin Ali Jifri, the Sultan's Chief Minister and Alawi bin Ali Jifri, both of whom succeeded in escaping to the Yemen. All three of these men who are Saiyids from Yeshbum in the Aulaki sheikhdom were well known to the Sultan, indeed they could be described as personal friends. Lahej was occupied temporarily by troops, and the Sultan, who was in Aden at the time, left for the United Kingdom shortly afterwards, leaving one of his cousins in charge of the State as his deputy.

There is not the slightest doubt that the Governor's action was fully justified and timely, nor is there any doubt that Lahej has for some time been a centre for pro-Nasser and anti-British propaganda. Shortly after the events recorded above, a raid was made on the Lahej village of Dar Saad, but a stone's throw from Sheikh Othman in the Colony. A detachment of Government Guards surrounded the village and a thorough search resulted in the seizure of no less than several tons of explosives and fireworks and arms and ammunition including automatic rifles. These automatic weapons could not have been obtained from either the Colony or the Protectorate.

In June Yahya Hiosi the Commandant of the Lahej "Army" fled to the Yemen with some of his troops and a considerable sum of money from the State Treasury. In July His Highness, Sir Ali bin Abdul Karim, left London for Rome and a day or two later Her Majesty's Government withdrew recognition from him as Sultan of Lahej.

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Now let us turn to local events in the Colony. Shortly after I left Aden in 1956 the question of Qāt began to trouble the minds of the Unofficial Members of the Legislative Council. Qāt is a shrub cultivated in the Yemen and in Ethiopia and at Dhala in the Protectorate and looks something like a tea bush. The leaves are chewed while fresh and green and the practice is easily habit forming. The precise effect of the drug on the system is hard to explain, and medical opinion is divided about whether it is or is not deleterious. My own view is that taken in moderation it is, like many other stimulants, innocuous, but taken to excess it can be very harmful. It is expensive and